Distr.
GENERAL
E/ECA/TPCW.5/2
16 March 1984

Original: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15-21 May 1984

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

The formal opening of the fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole will take place at Africa Hall on Tuesday, 15 May 1984 at 4 p.m.

2. Election of Officers (agenda item 2)

In accordance with rules 14 and 15 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole will elect from among the representatives of member States a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman, a Second Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur. The outgoing officers of the meeting will remain in office until the election of their successors. They are eligible for re-election.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 3)

In accordance with rule 9 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the meeting will adopt its agenda and establish the procedure for the conduct of its business (document E/ECA/TPCW.5/1 Rev. 2).

4. Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary including an update of programme performance, 1982-1983 (agenda item 4)

Under this agenda item (document E/ECA/CM/10/11) the Secretariat will present the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary for the period 1982-1983. This report is the third in a series which the Executive Secretary started in 1978 as a vehicle for reporting to member States on the activities of the Secretariat in its efforts to assist governments of member States in their arduous tasks to solve the economic, social and technological problems of their countries.

5. Critical Economic Situation in Africa (agenda item 5)

(a) Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1982-1983 (agenda sub-item 5(a))

Under this sub-item, the Committee will discuss the document before it entitled "Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1982-1983" (E/ECA/CM.10/4). The document reviews the economic situation in the two years 1982 and 1983, and contains some forecasts of the main economic variables in 1984. The employment situation is given special attention, and an analysis is made of the structure of the labour force and of employment in the region. The special subject of study this year is adjustment policies in the African region. This theme has been selected in view of the importance of the issue in the current economic crisis affecting most countries of the region.

(b) Report on the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the economic and Social crisis of Africa, with particular reference to the current emergency situation in Africa and including medium and long-term development issues (agenda sub-item 5(b))

This document surveys the social and economic situation in Africa. It is in the framework of the recent efforts undertaken by the United Nations Secretary-General including his consultations with African officials during his recent visit to eight West African countries and with representatives of African countries in New York, potential donor countries and executive heads of relevant organizations of the UN system. A clear indication that economic and social development in Africa was in serious difficulty was emerged since the end of the 1970s and early 1980s, a recognition which caused the African Heads of States and Governments to formulate and adopt the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

The report, after identifying the main causes of the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Africa, tied to the cumulative impact of internal factors (slow growth, structural weaknesses, natural calamities such as drought, cyclones, floods and internal instability) and external factors (international economic recession and external instability), gives a picture of sectoral growth: (a) the bad agricultural performances linked to deteriorating climatic conditions, low investment level in agriculture, lack of sufficient incentives and market constraints and the consequences on food situation in Africa; (b) the poor performance of the industrial sector mainly due to the underutilization of capacity and insufficient foreign exchange reserves to finance the imports of some essential inputs and spare parts; (c) the insufficiency of the inavailability of skilled manpower in the social sector; (d) the external sector which suffers from a fall in export earnings, a decline in imports, stagnation of transfers and a decline in capital flows which have brought about a fall in foreign exchange reserves; (e) the large public sector which is in the face of a stagnation or reduction in current receipts and growing current expenditures which have resulted in chronic budgetary deficit; and (f) the high debt services ratio.

The report identifies the type of responses expected from African countries themselves as well as from the international community. It also establishes priority measures to be undertaken and calls upon the international community to take a "more effective, concerted and timely action". It further defines the role of the different aid agencies including the UN system. In this line a Special Representative, Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, has been appointed to follow on the developments of the situation, communicate and consult with African governments on behalf of the UN Secretary-General.

(c) Critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa (agenda sub-item 5(c)

The document highlights the precarious nature of the African food and agricultural situation in 1983 and 1984 and shows that the problem is worsening despite pockets of weather improvement and signs of economic recovery in the advanced industrialized countries. The document indicates further that the countries most seriously affected by drought, pest, animal and plant diseases will not recover from this situation for a long time to come and they will require massive assistance to rehabilitate their agricultural economies. It pinpoints the impact of the vagaries of nature on agriculture, the effect of prolonged world economic recession on Africa, and the lack of appropriate policies as the major impediments in accelerating food and agricultural development in the continent.

The document while taking note of collective and individual government efforts being made by African countries calls for much greater policy adjustments, priorities and stepped-up investment for reversing the unfavourable trends. Policy measures which could be directed to improving African food and agricultural situation are suggested (document E/ECA/CM.10/19).

(d) Intensive study to ascertain the cause(s) of the discrepancy between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture and the declining performance of the sector (agenda sub-item 5(d))

Document E/ECA/CM.10/21 analyzes the pattern of flows of public expenditure to the ECA member countries against the performance of the food and agricultural sector over the past decade. The objective is to identify, if any, apparent discrepancy between resource allocation and declining performance of the sector. The paper documents in empirical and qualitative terms the paradox between incidence of widespread hunger and the immense potential on the continent and examines in detail the reason behind this paradox.

It is concluded that the constraints which abound in the sector are formidable but not insurmountable. Above all, it is emphasized that reversing the unfavourable food and agricultural trends must be accomplished urgently as a matter of political imperative, if the impending economic and possible political collapse is to be averted in many African countries. Major priority areas for reversing the decline of the sector have been suggested for consideration by member States.

(e) The Scientific Roundtable on the climatic situation and drought in Africa (agenda sub-item 5(e))

The report of the Conference of Experts on the implementation of ECA resolution 473 (XVIII) on the climatic situation and drought in Africa, document E/ECA/CM.10/23, deliberated on the main aspects of the problem. It reviewed the current scientific knowledge on drought for its causes, periodicity, trends, predictability and adequacy of data, and climatic variability and change. It also examined the social, economic and cultural impacts of drought and the human responses to it. The report proposes a plan of action to combat the impacts of drought in Africa.

(f) Regional Meeting on Natural Disaster Prevention and Preparedness in Africa (agenda sub-item 5(f))

Under this item, the Conference will be presented with the Report of the Regional Meeting on Natural Disaster Prevention and Preparedness in Africa which took place in Addis Ababa from 24 to 25 February 1984. The Regional Meeting assessed the current situation as related to natural disasters and hazards in Africa, reviewed the country experiences and recommended measures to prevent and/or prepare for natural hazards in Africa. The Conference will be requested to endorse the report of the Regional Meeting.

(g) Africa's external debt and its impact on the current economic crisis (agenda sub-item 5(g))

"The Meeting will have before it a summary paper entitled "Africa's External Debt and its Impact on the Current Economic Crisis" (doc. E/ECA/CM.10/26) which summarizes the activities that have been undertaken by the joint secretariats of ECA, OAU and ADB in the implementation of resolution 440 (XVII) on External Indebtedness of African Countries which was adopted at the Seventeenth Session of the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Tripoli (Libya) in April 1982. Since the full issue of external indebtedness will be discussed at the Ministerial Conference in June, this summary is submitted only for information of participants."

6. Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos in Solving Africa's Critical Economic Crisis (agenda item 6)

(a) United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa:

(i) Second phase programme, 1984-1987 (agenda sub-item 6a(i))

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning adopted a realistic second phase programme. For the implementation of this programme the following was taken into consideration:

(a) Directives of the third ministerial Conference which took place in Cairo;

(b) Recommendations of the Pa oundtable;

(c) Additional selection criteria;

(d) Time factor (phasing, short, medium and long-terms).

The secretariat will introduce this programme (document E/ECA/CM.10/18).

(ii) Europe-Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar (agenda sub-item 6a(ii))

A synthesis and an evaluation of various reports and studies now available on the permanent link and on the problems pertaining to its implementation were carried out on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and Africa (ECA).

The conclusion by the experts show that this project is now technically feasible and that, its geopolitical, touristic, economic and practical consequences will be considerable for the two continents.

The Secretariat will present the results already obtained as well as future actions to be undertaken. (Document E/ECA/CM.10/5).

(iii) Report of the fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning (agenda sub-item 6a(iii)

The fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers took place in Conakry from 7 to 11 February 1984 and the following issues were discussed:

(a) Implementation of the first phase programme;

(b) Follow-up of resolutions adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, the ninth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers; the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the U.N. General Assembly;

(c) Organization of the fifth, sixth and seventh technical consultative meetings;

(d) Draft project for the second phase programme (1984-1988).

Having considered these issues, the Conference of Ministers adopted resolutions which may guide the Ministers in their deliberations. (Document E/ECA/CM.10/22).

(b) United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa (agenda sub-item 6(b))

The report (document E/ECA/CM.10/27) covers the procedings and recommendations of the Seventh meeting of the Conference of the African Ministers of Industry held in Addis Ababa, 26-28 March 1984. The African Ministers of Industry reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), including activities undertaken towards formulation of national and multinational industrial core projects and programmes for each subregion. These projects had been selected by intergovernmental experts in each of the subregions on the basis of criteria adopted at the seventh meeting of the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa which met in Kigali in March 1983. The Conference adopted a programme of projects to be undertaken during the implementation phase of the Decade, 1985-1990 and made proposals on the modalities for implementation of the projects. The Ministers also agreed on an African common position at the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, mainly that the substantive issues of UNIDO IV should be viewed in terms of their contribution to the implementation of the decade programme. Consensus was

also reached on the issue of managing the African Industrial Development Fund (AIDF) by ADB. This institution was established in 1979 to assist the African countries in mobilizing resources for pre-investment activities related to multinational and major national projects.

(c) Regional review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development in Africa (agenda sub-item 6(c))

The review which has been undertaken by the Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) has the objectives of obtaining an overall assessment of the progress achieved by the individual countries and the region as a whole in the implementation of the various recommendations in the Vienna Programme of Action, identifying the unfulfilled goals and the problems thereto and exploring future course of action to accelerate the pace of implementation. The meeting will have before it a progress report giving a preliminary assessment arrived at on the basis of information obtained so far from some member States in the African region. A representative of the secretariat will elaborate on matters requiring clarification from the participants. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/25).

(d) Perspective Studies on the livestock sector (Agenda sub-item 6(d))

(i) The progress report on livestock is divided into two parts:

I. Progressive Livestock Development in Africa

This first part includes an annotated outline which is the result of collaborative efforts between ECA and FAO as called for by resolution 463 (XVIII). The outline attempts to specify in details the issues that will be covered in this comprehensive study on livestock sector in Africa.

It is hoped that the meeting, after taking note of the outline, would be in a position to provide some suggestions, comments or additions which would assist in carrying out in the most effective manner this study according to the member countries' requirements.

II. Expert Consultation on livestock research and development in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 19-23 September 1983

This part reports on the expert consultation on livestock research and development in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 19 to 23 September 1983.

This consultation has been very useful as a forum for exchange of information and crystalizing the understanding of the crucial issues which warrant attention when undertaking the perspective study as mentioned in Part I.

This consultation adopted a series of seven recommendations, relating to co-ordination and integration of livestock programmes at subregional and regional levels, mobilization of national resources for the livestock sector, and international centres and institutes; Pan-African Rinderpest Control Campaign; Programme for the

Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis; range management; fodder production and the utilization of agricultural by-products; livestock system approach to research and to collaboration and co-ordination among and between international and national institutions which are presented in details in the report prepared for these meetings.

The Experts stress the urgent need to have a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of recommendation in livestock sector at national, subregional and regional levels in order to reduce duplication of efforts and to make efficient use of scarce resources. The attention of member governments is drawn to the importance and the necessity of establishing a mechanism for monitoring and co-ordination of livestock development in Africa. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/12).

(e) Establishment of the African Monetary Fund (agenda sub-item 6(e))

The Committee will consider and take note of the progress report on the work towards the establishment of an African Monetary Fund (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/15). This report is prepared pursuant to resolution 467 (XVIII) of the Conference of Ministers.

(f) Contributions of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions to African Development (agenda sub-item 6(f))

(i) Proceedings and recommendations of the fourth Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions (agenda sub-item 6f(ii))

Since 1980 the Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions has been institutionalized. Summaries and recommendations of the Conference are submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers. The present summary and recommendations relate to the Fourth Conference of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.7)

(ii) Consolidated biennial report on the activities 1982-1983 and the work programme and priorities (1984-1985, of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions - resolution 451 (XVII) (agenda sub-item 6f(ii))

The Consolidated Biennial report of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions and work programme are prepared in fulfillment of resolution 451 (XVII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers in order to provide the Conference of Ministers information on the institutions on a regular basis. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/9).

(g) Evaluation and Harmonization of Activities of the African Multinational Institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU - resolution 477 (XVIII) and the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to implement resolution 477 (XVIII) (agenda sub-item 6(g))

The first report gives an account of the preliminary steps taken by the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 477 (XVIII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers, to evaluate the ECA/OAU institutions in terms of that resolution. The second document is the report of the Ad Hoc Committee required by resolution 477 (XVIII) to be submitted to the Tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/10).

7. The Special Problems of African Least Developed Countries: Report of the Fourth meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts of the Least Developed African Countries (agenda item 7)

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the report of the Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/34) which took place in Addis Ababa, 9-11 May 1984. The report with amendments of the Committee will be submitted to the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries to be held in Addis Ababa, on 22-23 May 1984.

8. Reports of the annual sessions of the MULPOCs (agenda item 3)

Under this agenda item the meeting will consider reports of the activities of the MULPOCs based in Lusaka, Gisenyi, Niamey, Yaounde and Tangiers during the last twelve months. They will deal in particular with meetings of the policy organs of each MULPOC, other meetings held in the MULPOC, studies undertaken, sectoral activities, assistance given to the intergovernmental organizations, advisory services, other activities and they will also summarize the degree to which the work programme of each MULPOC has been implemented during the period under review. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/).

9. Reports of the Subsidiary bodies of the Commission (agenda item 9)

(a) Third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. (agenda sub-item 9(a))

The third session of the Joint Conference was held at ECA Headquarters from 5 to 14 March 1984 and its report (document E/ECA/CM.10/24) will be presented to the meeting. It may be recalled that as a result of resolution 438 (XVII) computer specialists, documentalists and information scientists participated in the Conference for the first time. The report deals inter-alia, with technical assistance in planning, statistics and demography, selected aspects of Africa's development 1983-2008, the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and selected methodological and statistical studies. The meeting is invited to examine and comment on the conclusions of the Joint Conference and approve its report.

(b) Second meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment (agenda sub-item 9(b))

The report of the meeting (E/ECA/CM.10/13) deals with various activities on human settlements, especially provision of shelter for Africa's homeless, building and construction materials development, as well as environmental problems relating to combating desertification, environmental impact assessment in industry, environmental legislation, environmental education and training programme for Africa, national manpower capability, and the impacts of earthquakes. Seven sets of recommendations and resolutions were adopted on the above areas after discussion by the joint committee.

(c) Fifth meeting of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (agenda sub-item 9(c))

The fifth meeting of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the integration of women in development will have three substantive items to deliberate upon. It will examine the report of the ECA women's programme for 1983-1984 including the activities carried at subregional level (MULPOC). The institutional framework established by ECA for effective action towards the advancement of African women will be reviewed and finalized. Thirdly, the regional preparatory activities towards the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, Equality Development and Peace (1976-1985), will be discussed and appropriate directives given. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/33).

(d) Second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (agenda sub-item 9(d))

The Secretariat will present the report of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 18 November 1983 and highlight those special points in the report requiring the attention of member States (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/6).

(e) Report on the Regional Meeting on International Youth Year (agenda sub-item 9(e))

Under this item, the Conference will be presented with the Report of the Regional Meeting on International Youth Year which took place in Addis Ababa from 20 to 24 June 1983, which considered the Situation of African Youth in the 1980s, formulated a Regional Plan of Action and considered regional co-operation in the field of youth. The Conference will be requested to endorse the report of the Regional Meeting, particularly the Regional Plan of Action on Youth, and to consider a draft resolution urging member States to implement the measures and activities embodied in the Regional Plan of Action on Youth.

(f) Report on the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (agenda sub-item 9(f))

Under this item, the Conference will have before it the Report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders which took place in Addis Ababa from 28 November to 2 December 1983. The Conference will be requested to endorse the Report of the Meeting and to consider a draft resolution to be submitted to the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders due to be held next year (1985).

10. Proposed updating and revision to the Medium-term Plan 1984-1989 (agenda item 10)

Under this agenda item, the updated and revised versions of the medium-term plans, 1984-1989 in the fields of development issues and policies, marine affairs, energy, science and technology, statistics, transport, communications and tourism, Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), water resources, mineral resources and cartography will be presented. This is in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982 stipulating that the Plan should be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/16).

11. World Population Plan of Action (agenda item 11)

The World Population Plan of Action at Bucharest in 1974 expressed the consensus reached at the Conference on the importance of population as an integral part of development plan. The Plan brings together in a single document a wide variety of objectives, policies and activities in the field of population. Ten years after the Bucharest Conference, the International Conference on Population will be held in Mexico City in August 1984. The global community will have an opportunity to assess the achievements of the past decade, and in the light of the report of the Preparatory Committee and the Consultations of the Regional Commissions, make suggestions for review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action. The ECA Conference of Ministers will examine the report of the preparatory committee as well as that of the Second African Population Conference. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/14).

12. Other resolutions of the Commission and resolutions and decisions adopted by ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1983 and by the General Assembly at its 38th Session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa. (agenda item 12)

(a) Follow-up action on other relevant resolutions at the eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda sub-item 12(a))

For the purpose of apprising themselves of the various actions taken by the Secretariat in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its ninth meeting or eighteenth session of the Commission, representatives will have before them. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/8).

(b) Resolutions and decisions adopted by ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1983 and by the General Assembly at its thrity-eighth session of the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa (agenda sub-item 12(b))

Under this agenda item, there will be a review of the various resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, including those recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983, on the basis of the report and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers at its ninth meeting held in Addis Ababa (Silver Jubilee of the Commission), Ethiopia, from 27 April to 2 May 1983. The relevant document will also highlight other resolutions and decisions emanating from the thirty-eighth session of the Assembly which are of concern to the African region. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/20).

13. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development: Progress report on the utilization of pledges for 1982-1983 (agenda item 13)

The Conference will be informed on the status of pledged contributions and the progress on the implementation of the programmes and projects executed under the trust fund for African Development. (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/17)

14. ECOSOC's request to its subsidiary bodies that currently meet on an annual basis to consider adopting, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of meetings and to report in 1984 (agenda item 14).

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will present a note (Doc. E/ECA/CM.10/30) which provides information on the background to the ECOSOC request, recalls previous decisions of the Commission on the periodicity of its sessions, and concludes with a suggestion that, taking into account, among others, the increasing serious economic and social situation of the region which requires continual consultation among member States at the regional level, the ministers may want to continue to meet on an annual basis subject to review at a later date.

15. Other business (agenda item 15)

Any other matters which delegations may wish to raise will be considered under this agenda item.

16. Date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 16)

Under this agenda item the Committee may wish to suggest the dates and venue of its next meeting, bearing in mind the fact that its meeting should be held at the same venue as that of the Conference of Ministers and a few days prior to the Conference.

17. Adoption of the report and draft resolutions for submission to the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 17)

The meeting will examine and adopt the report together with draft resolutions for consideration by the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.